

SKILLED LABOR ON PANAMA CANAL REBELS AT REDUCTION

President's Order Effective April First Said to Be Causing Serious Discontent Among Employees.

UNEMPLOYED BECOMES PROBLEM IN THE ZONE

Panama, April 27.—Much opposition to the wage reduction of skilled labor on the canal has arisen since the new wage scale was promulgated in conformity with an executive order issued by President Wilson, operative on April 1, when the permanent government of the Panama canal went into effect.

The skilled workers have been in communication with the present government of the United States, with the result that the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor has instructed the unions on the isthmus to immediately begin formation of a metal trades council in Panama. Several meetings already have been held at which strong opposition to any wage reduction was voiced.

Under the terms of the Adamson act establishing permanent government of the Panama canal it is provided that no one on the canal force shall be paid more than 25 per cent in excess of the average wage for similar work paid in the United States. In conformity with this provision, Col. George W. Goethals, governor of the Panama canal, issued a circular establishing a new wage scale. This provided for considerable reductions all along the line.

It is understood here that Colonel Goethals personally favors the continuation of the present wage scale until the period of construction shall have been ended. If this is done the reduction will become effective gradually and not until after the construction of the canal has been fully completed.

The various labor unions represented on the isthmus it is understood have communicated or will communicate with their parent organizations with the view of obtaining strike sanction. It is not the immediate intention, according to laborers here, to make use of the strike weapon to enforce the present scale, but only in an emergency of such a character as to make its use necessary.

It is not anticipated that any opposition to the new wage scale will come from the American clerks and other organized members of the canal force. As yet no active opposition has appeared among them; all are resigning and returning to the United States and seeking other employment. This class of employee in any event will suffer considerable shrinkage through the gradual reduction made necessary by the completion of construction work.

A series of problems also confronts the authorities of the canal zone and the republic of Panama of the increasing number of unemployed men.

Within the last year many thousands of unskilled canal workers have been thrown upon their own resources because there was no more work for them.

In almost every case they have saved money for a rainy day. The result has been an increasing amount of lawlessness, running particularly into the line of petty burglaries.

For unskilled labor there is now absolutely no demand either on the isthmus, the outlying provinces of the republic, or the neighboring republics of Central and South America.

The present situation in El Paso, however, in the province of Chiriqui, is expected to afford some relief, but the hope of its early start is not at all bright here.

There is little or no construction work in progress. Public work, with the exception of the national exposition, practically is at a standstill.

On the zone the roads are being constructed by the prisoners in the penitentiary. This also is the case in the Panama republic.

Both Panama City and Colon, the two most important cities in the Panama republic, are filled with idle men who are loosed upon more or less as a menace by the police forces. The Panamanian authorities say that the problem is one of solution by the canal government.

The question of the unemployed Jamaican negro is simple. When he left his native shore to come to Panama to work on the canal he was compelled to deposit \$8 for his return passage when the job was done.

Many of them, however, do not wish to return, for the reason that they are now accustomed to larger wages than they have ever been able to earn in Jamaica. Besides, they say the island is already overpopulated.

The question of higher wages and overpopulation also is true of the other West Indian islands. Then, too, there is at present little or no demand for this class of labor in any of the West Indies with the possible exception of Cuba and Porto Rico, according to information here.

It is anticipated that the entire question probably will have to be submitted to the governments of the various countries from which the laborers come.

Ancon cemetery forms part of the site for the permanent canal government town of Balboa. It has been decided to exhume all bodies buried there. Already more than 1,000 bodies have been removed, most of them being cremated. Others have been shipped to the states and again buried.

The cremation is progressing at the rate of from 10 to 10 bodies a day. A total of 4,000 bodies have to be disinterred and cremated.

The French government soon will build and own its legation building in Panama. A large tract of land has been given to France by the Panama government.

It is near the University club on the seawall, and is regarded as one of the choicest locations in the city. It overlooks the bay toward the Pacific entrance of the canal and the several islands on which are the many fortifications that protect the canal entrance.

Plans for the new structure have been prepared in Paris and are being brought to Panama by a supervising architect, who will superintend the construction work.

FREE LOG OF ROAD TO MOUNTAINAIR OFFERED

Foret Service Men After Three Day Inspection Trip Prepare Document of Value to Motorists.

TIJERAS CANYON ROAD IN EXCELLENT SHAPE

As a result of a recent three-day inspection trip made by officials from the district office in company with Supervisor Muller of the Mansanae territory, the road from Fort Wingate to Tijeras, Tijeras Ranger Station to Tijeras, Terreno to Mountainair, Mountainair to Albuquerque, via Sals, this trip clearly demonstrated that during stormy weather the best route to Mountainair is undoubtedly the Sals-Tijeras road.

The road to Estancia valley points reaches higher altitude and the road surface is not nearly so sandy as via Alm-Pase. Notwithstanding the recent rain, the Tijeras canyon road improvement was in excellent shape. In addition, there have been numerous improvements made to the terrain section of the Sals-Tijeras road.

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As regards for the loss of property that may occur from shooting, El Paso has no reason to fear the outcome of an attack or an uprising.

There are men and guns enough there to smash any force that the Mexicans could bring into action. The exact range of the chief buildings in Juncos and the approaches to the city are known to the army men, and the city is well prepared for defense.

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